

Announcement for Concord town website, News and Notices which goes by email blast to >700 households and is posted on the website. May 2014.

Free Tick Testing for Concord Residents-- Lyme disease is the most common infectious disease in Concord. The Concord Health Division is offering tick testing at no cost to residents—if you are bitten by a tick, the tick may be submitted for FREE testing during 2014 to determine if it is carrying pathogens that cause Lyme Disease, Babesiosis, and Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis (HGA). Tick testing will be performed by the Laboratory of Medical Zoology (LMZ) at the University of Massachusetts. If you find a tick biting you, carefully remove it using tweezers and place it in a sealable plastic bag (alive or dead). Submitting a sample is easy: go to www.TickReport.com, complete a testing submittal form and receive a sample number, place the tick with sample number in an envelope and mail it to the LMZ address indicated on the form. You will receive your results by email within 5 business days. Test results can be shared with your physician, if you choose. The findings of the testing are maintained anonymously and will help local and state agencies build a surveillance database to better inform public health disease prevention programs and track tick-borne disease. The cost for tick testing outside this program can be upwards of \$140, so we are pleased to offer this service to Concord residents for no cost for the coming year. Once the LMZ has analyzed 100 ticks from Concord, a discounted testing rate of \$50 will be offered. For more information, please visit the Concord Health Division's webpage at: http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_health/Tickborne%20Diseases or call 978 318 3275.

Residents are also encouraged to take the Middlesex Tick Task Force's Tick-borne Illness Survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MiddlesexTickSurvey> to assess their knowledge about tick-borne diseases.